



U. S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Eastern District of Washington

300 United States Courthouse 509/353-2767
Post Office Box 1494
Spokane, WA 99210-1494 FAX (509) 353-2766

March 4, 2008

Mr. Ronald Carpenter
Clerk of the Supreme Court
Supreme Court of the State of Washington
Post Office Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to APR Rule 11 and the APR 11 Regulations. Former United States Attorney John McKay and I spoke to the WSBA Board of Governors on October 27, 2006, concerning this very issue and urged that changes be made to allow the training of the United States Department of Justice's legal professionals to qualify for MCLE credits.

As you may know, the United States Department of Justice, Office of Legal Education (OLE), provides training for federal legal personnel in various federal government agencies around the country. OLE is a non-profit, federal training center which has provided continuing legal education training for over 20 years. Its mission is dictated by Title 28, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 0.22(c), which requires that OLE "develop, conduct and authorize the training of all Federal legal personnel." OLE trains more than 10,000 attorneys annually through in-residence, live courses and distance education media from its training facility at the National Advocacy Center on the campus of the University of South Carolina. OLE charges no fees for course attendance. The primary purpose of OLE attorney training is to ensure that government attorneys have the necessary skills, abilities and knowledge of the law to enable them to serve as criminal prosecutors and representatives of the United States government. Because of the unique nature of government representation and federal criminal prosecution, there are few alternative sources for relevant, continuing legal education. In my 6 1/2 years as United States Attorney, I have had the opportunity to attend several in-residence courses, and I have also taken advantage of multiple distance education courses. Without a doubt, the training provided by OLE is thorough, professional and relevant in every respect.

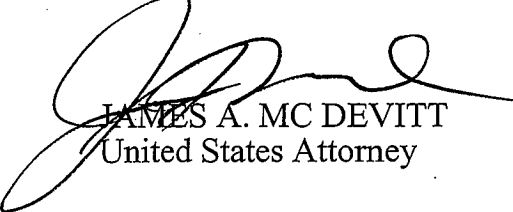
A number of our federal government attorneys in the United States Attorneys' Offices in this State are members of the Washington State Bar Association and should be eligible for MCLE credits for the first-rate training they receive at the OLE. Accordingly, we fully support the proposed revisions to the APR rules and regulations. We believe the proposed revisions recognize the important training being done by government training

RECEIVED
SUPREME COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON
08 MAR -6 AM 8:14
BY RONALD R. CARPENTER
CLERK

facilities such as ours. We commend the Board of Governors and the MCLE Board for their understanding of the issues and for taking steps to make the rules and regulations for MCLE accreditation and compliance more uniform and fair.

We respectfully urge the Court to approve these revisions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,



JAMES A. MC DEVITT
United States Attorney

JAM:plp
L80222pp.jma